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ACTION ARA-01

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DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/BSC, S/CT

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PTER, AR  
SUBJECT: AMIA CASE: SELF-PROFESSED PARTICIPANT  
- VIEWED WITH CIRCUMSPECTION

1. COINCIDENTALLY, WHILE EMBOFFS WERE MEETING JUNE 7  
WITH FEDERAL JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO (SEPTTEL), WHO IS  
INVESTIGATING THE JULY 1994 BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE  
JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA), A MAN PROFESSING TO  
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HAVE ASSISTED THE TERRORISTS IN CARRYING OUT THE

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ATTACK TURNED HIMSELF IN TO AUTHORITIES IN THE CITY OF TRENQUE LAUQUEN, IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES. IDENTIFIED AS CESAR ALFREDO BORZONE, AGE 45, THE MAN CLAIMED TO HAVE CONDUCTED INTELLIGENCE GATHERING PRIOR TO THE BOMBING ON BEHALF OF HIZBOLLAH.

2. AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING JUDGE GALEANO, HAVE REACTED WITH GREAT SKEPTICISM TO THE CLAIM. POLICE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH BORZONE BEFORE SAY HE HAS A HISTORY OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS ABOUT MAJOR CRIMES. EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE INFORMED THE SUPREME COURT THAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES. TWO YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, HE CLAIMED HIS THEN WIFE HAD BEEN AT THE PARTY ATTENDED BY MARIA SOLEDAD MORALES IN CATAMARCA PROVINCE THE NIGHT OF HER NOTORIOUS MURDER. THAT CASE HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA SINCE IT CAME TO TRIAL LATE LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: JUDGE GALEANO HAS DECIDED TO WAIT FOR A COMPLETE PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION ON BORZONE BEFORE INTERVIEWING HIM FORMALLY. ONE OF GALEANO'S LEAD PROSECUTORS WAS A BIT MORE BLUNT: "THIS IS NOT THE WAY SOMEONE USUALLY ACTS AFTER HAVING PARTICIPATED IN TERRORISM," REFERRING TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE BORZONE HELD BEFORE TURNING HIMSELF IN. FEDERAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS SAY BORZONE WAS ALREADY THE SUBJECT OF A SANITY HEARING IN ONE OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES BEFORE THIS LATEST EPISODE.

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